Amoy, Oct. 16. 1847

Dear Brethren.

No recent news either from Shanghai or Ningpo has been rec^d here. Before this reaches you, you will have heard of the melancholy death of the Rev. W. M. Lowrie. No additional particulars of this tragic event have been rec^d. Dates from Fuhchowfoo of Oct. 6th say that all the missionaries except Mrs Pratt are in good health. Mrs P. has been ill for a long time. She is now slowly improving. You are aware that Fuhchowfoo is now occupied by two Board i.e. A.B.C.F.M. & Methodist Board. It is a large & promising field of mis. labor. The city is the most populous of any of the 5 which are open to foreign commerce except Canton. It was feared at one time that the people possessed much of the Canton spirit in regard to foreigners. Some merchants & sailors met with rough treatment in a few instances. The Missionaries, however, have found none of this hostile feeling. It is very likely, that in those instances in which the people manifested hostility to foreigners, they had rec^d some provocation. Many Europeans have the notion that the Chinese may be kicked about like dogs — at least their conduct evinces the presence of such a notion — & hence they are frequently the originators of the rows & disturbances which occur. — Dates from Canton of Sept. 30. speak of the usual health of the Miss^s in that part of China. Mr Roberts (Baptist) whose house & chapel were plundered by robbers some time ago, is now engaged in building up new structures. Keying has interposed in his behalf with the people. — There is no very interesting intelligence to be communicated from Amoy. The Miss^s enjoy usual health. Mr Doty's day school is prospering. He & his colleagues of the A.M.B.F.M are at present making arrangements for the erection of a church. A lot has been procured for the building. In regard to the success of Mis. labor in China, there is room for

humiliation & prayer. There seems to be little or no spirit of inquiry abroad among the people on the subject of the new religion which has been brought to their doors. The old systems of things which has existed for ages, does not seem to have sustained a single knock. All things continue as they were from the beginning. No doubt light is spreading but its advancing into the domains of China's gross darkness is almost, if not altogether, imperceptible. Many tracts & portions of the S.S. have been distributed at the 5 ports. at least at 4 out of the five. and a good deal of truth has been communicated. or attempted to be communicated by the living voice. & what are the results? Almost nothing. Why is this? The cause is twofold. In the first place, less instruction has been imparted than ought to be. Who is not fully aware of all the circumstances of the case, is disposed to believe. Tracts & translations of the S.S. in Chinese are full of mistakes & offences against idioms & against styles & hence they are not much read by that class of the population that is capable of comprehending them. Moreover the doctrines are strange & new to the Chinese & hence it is not wonderful that those, who do read, find much that they do not understand. What is true of the tracts is also true of the oral instruction of Miss.s. In the second place, the church & her Miss.s have not felt that deep interest in this work which they should. Miss.s have not labored with that indomitable zeal with which they should & the church has not succored them with her prayers as she should. If both Miss.s & Christians in England & America had more of Paul's spirit, or rather, more of Jesus' spirit, the aspect of China might soon be changed for the better. Alas our hearts Your dear brethren, ought to feel a special interest in this matter. You expect some to become either Miss.s or pastors. leaders in the hosts of God's elect. Your spirit will animate the spirit of your flocks. If you be indifferent about the progress of God's cause, so will they. If

you by your prayers & by active effort manifest a lively interest in all that concerns the advancing of Christ's kingdom among the heathen, your people will catch your spirit & will unite with you in urging on the chariots of salvation. China is a vast & populous empire. but alas! the powers of darkness occupy the throne of dominion. The rightful sovreign can scarcely call a single heart his own. They willingly bow down to the prince of the power of the air, the god of this world & yield him a most willing & hearty obedience. Every thing in the government, in the structure of society, in the character of the educational system of China tends to strengthen & confirm the authority of this prince of evil. He has indeed strong holds which are impregnable so far as mans feeble efforts are concerned. Nothing but the mighty power of God can pull them down. God is willing to exert this power provided the Church with one accord come up to his help against the mighty. He has promised China to Christ as well as other parts of the world & stands prepared to fulfil this promise as soon as the Church asks for its fulfilment. Has it not said, for all these things will I be inquired of by the house of Israel to do it for them? Has the Church honestly & sincerely inquired of God about this matter? You, dear brethren, may reply to this question. You stand upon the high places of Zion & are therefore sufficiently qualified to say whether the Church of Christ in the United States has solemnly & earnestly inquired of God about the conversion of the world - about the fulfilment of his gracious promises to Christ. The Church is constantly saying & ministers of the gospel are constantly saying, you & theological students are constantly saying that God is a prayer hearing & prayer answering Jehovah. When they say so, do they believe so? If God hears & answers prayer, why is China yet so shrouded in darkness? Is it because God is

not a prayer hearing & a prayer answering Jehovah? or because the Church & ministers & students do not pray? The latter seems the true solution of the difficulty. But few in the Church seem to care about Chinese souls & so but few pray for them. & consequently but few are converted from among these millions. God does not make bare his arm for this deliverance because the Church has not fulfilled the conditions included in God's promises. Who then is guilty of the blood of these souls, God or the Church. God or ministry. God or candidates for the ministry! This

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Answered April 14th

question, dear brethren, you may determine. and may the God of all grace not only enable you to be honest in deciding it but also honest in deciding the question of your personal duty to the heathen. We ask an interest in your daily public & private prayers.

Your fellow laborer in the gospel

John Sloy?